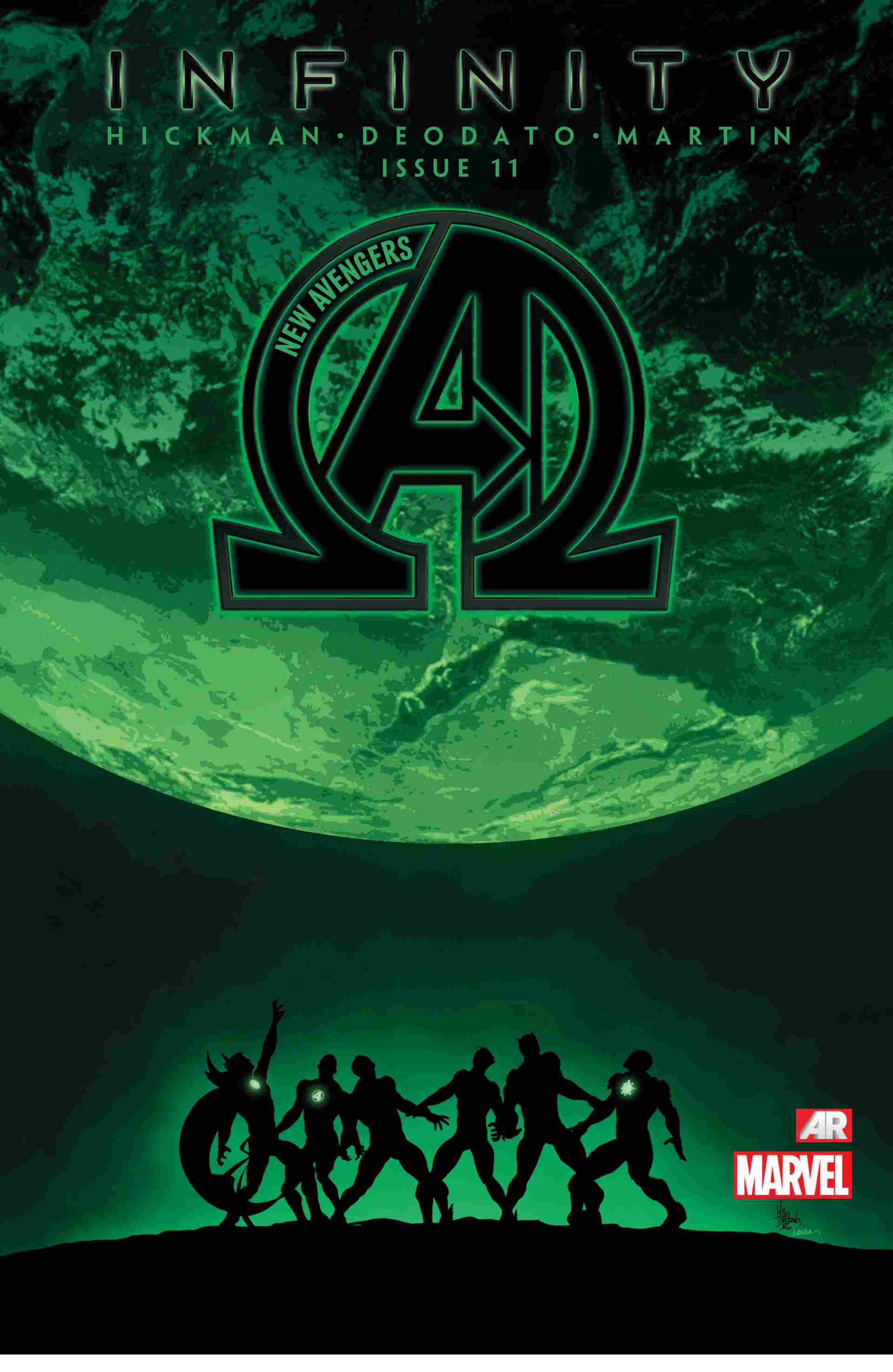
INFINITY

HICKMAN • DEODATO • MARTIN

ISSUE 11



AR

MARVEL

PREVIOUSLY IN INFINITY

EVERYONE HAS LIMITS...AN END TO WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF. I, FOR INSTANCE. I OPERATE IN INFORMATION, GAINING INFLUENCE AND SEEDING DISCORD. HOWEVER, I CANNOT TEAR INTO A MAN'S MIND AND SEE WHAT MAKES THEM WEAK...WHAT MAKES THEM STRONG...I HAVE TO RELY ON MY WORDS...BUT WHAT WORDS THEY ARE. SWEET WHISPERS AND SECRET FEARS.

I...I... DON'T KNOW WHERE THE GEM IS...

CURSE THE GEM, DOCTOR. A FOOL'S QUEST IF THERE EVER WAS ONE...

I WANT WHAT THANOS WANTS.

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT.

"EACH INCURSION LASTS EIGHT HOURS, AFTER WHICH EITHER BOTH WORLDS ARE DESTROYED...

"...OR ONLY ONE EARTH IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES."

VICTORY, BROTHER...LOOK AT HOW THEY RUN!

THEY WEREN'T EXPECTING THIS KIND OF RESISTANCE, SHURI. IF THEY HAD, THEY WOULD HAVE BROUGHT A BIGGER ARMY.

YOU HEARD THEM...THEY WERE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING. BEST NOW TO PREPARE FOR THEIR RETURN.

HRMPT! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING REGARDING A GEM, BUT DON'T DOUBT THE LESSON OF THE WHIP, T'CHALLA. IT WAS THE OLDEST FORM OF EDUCATION.

WHAT REASON WOULD THEY HAVE TO RETURN?

CAST

THE ILLUMINATI

BLACK PANTHER

BEAST

MR. FANTASTIC

IRON MAN

DR. STRANGE

NAMOR

THE BUILDERS

BUILDERS: CREATORS

BUILDERS: ENGINEERS

ALEPHS

GARDENERS

THANOS

THE CULL OBSIDIAN / BLACK ORDER

CORVUS GLAIVE

PROXIMA MIDNIGHT

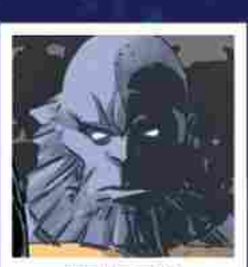
SUPERGIANT

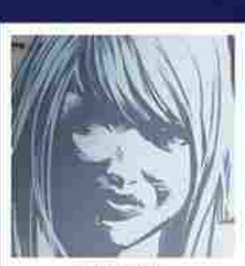
BLACK PANTHER (SHURI)

THE HATUT ZARAZE

MAXIMUS

LOCKJAW


TERRAX


BLACK SWAN

#00

“BUILDERS”

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ALL THESE WORLDS

THE FALL OF ATTILAN.

WUURRR?

I DON'T KNOW.

YOU DO THE MATH, YOU CHECK, DOUBLE-CHECK...BUT THE VARIABLES, LOCKJAW... THE VARIABLES MAKE ANY ASSURANCES FOLLY.

SO, I DON'T KNOW.

WUURRR?

WAS IT WORTH IT?

I WOULD DIE FOR NOTHING, BUT MY BROTHER...

BLACK BOLT HAS *IDEALS*. HE BELIEVED IN THE BOMB. HE BELIEVED IN TERRIGENESIS.

AND HE BELIEVED IN THE TWO OF US. ARE YOU READY?

WOORFFF!

THEN WE CONTINUE.

HERE WE ARE AGAIN...

AUSTRALIA.

YES...ALONE AT THE VERY END OF THE WORLD.

AND WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

IS IT NOT BAD ENOUGH THAT OUR WORLD IS AT WAR? NOW WE HAVE TO DECIDE THE FATE OF TWO ENTIRE WORLDS...

OF TWO ENTIRE UNIVERSES?

WHAT DECISION IS THERE, T'CHALLA? DO WE EVEN HAVE OPTIONS RIGHT NOW BEYOND THE ANTIMATTER DEVICE? AND ARE WE--

WAIT... LOOK!

"THERE.

"SOMETHING IS APPROACHING FROM THE OTHER EARTH."

IT CAN'T BE...

DECLARATIVE: GREETINGS, HUMAN TYPES.

QUERY: CONSIDERATION OF AN OVERTURE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

WHAT ARE YOU?

I KNOW THIS THING, REED...IT'S AN **ALEPH**. THERE'S NOTHING IT CAN SAY THAT'LL MAKE ME TRUST IT.

THERE'S NOTHING WE WANT THAT IT CAN OFFER.

DECLARATIVE: COME WITH ME.

DECLARATIVE: MY MASTER WANTS YOU TO WATCH US DESTROY A WORLD.

WAKANDA.

ON YOUR FEET. THE GREAT CITY HAS NEVER FALLEN...

BUT HOW CAN IT STAND IF YOU DO NOT?

I'LL FIGHT, BUT THEY'VE CRA--

OH NO...

"HERE THEY COME AGAIN."

OUR FIRST FEINT WITH AN ENTIRE WING OF SHIPS CAUSED THE WAKANDANS TO SPREAD THEIR FORCES EVENLY...

THEY WERE NOT PREPARED FOR A SECOND SUICIDAL WAVE ALL CONCENTRATING ON A SINGLE SPOT.

WE'VE MADE A SLIGHT CRACK IN THE WALLS OF THE GOLDEN CITY...

YOU SAW THE INHERENT WEAKNESS, CORVUS...

YOUR PLAN APPEARS TO HAVE WORKED.

WILL IT BE ENOUGH?

OF COURSE IT WILL, SUPERGIANT. HAVE YOU READ THIS PLANET'S HISTORY OF WARFARE?

THE ALEXANDER, THE NAPOLEON...THE CAESAR, THE HANNIBAL, THE KHAN...A PITTANCE.

CORVUS IS THE GREATEST GENERAL THIS WORLD HAS EVER SEEN.

AND YET EACH DAY THE SUN SETS AND I AM DEFEATED BY YOU...

WE MUST FIGHT OUR WAY THROUGH THE BREACH. OPEN THE WAY FOR OUR ARMIES.

WHAT WOULD PLEASE YOU, WIFE? TO WITNESS THE BREAKING OR TO LEAD THE WAY INTO THE CITY?

I WANT TO KILL THEM ALL SO BADLY.

THEN A GIFT, MY LOVE.

"FIRST BLOOD IS YOURS IN THE GOLDEN CITY."

A UNIVERSE AWAY.

OH MY STARS AND GARTERS.

IN OUR SEEMINGLY UNENDING STRING OF BAD CHOICES, ***THIS ONE***, I THINK, HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE OUR WORST.

LET'S JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THE CLOCK, NAMOR.

REGARDLESS OF HOW THIS GOES, TIME IS OUR REAL ENEMY HERE.

RISE

YES. SIX HOURS...

SIX HOURS FOR THE INCURSION...SIX HOURS TO SAVE OUR WORLD.

ONE FOOT IN FRONT OF THE OTHER...

REMEMBER WHAT WE HAVE AT THE NECROPOLIS.

WHAT ARE--

DECLARATIVE: SCANNING FOR ANOMALIES.

DECLARATIVE: SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR OUR MASTERS.

DECLARATIVE: CLEAR...

"DECLARATIVE: PROCEED. INSIDE."

WELCOME, HUMANS...

PLEASE, DO THE HONOR OF JOINING US.

WE HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS...

AND A WORLD TO SEE THE END OF.

WAKANDA.

HOLD THEM! HOLD!

"WE CANNOT LET THEIR ARMY INTO THE CITY!"

IS THAT SO?

AM I NOT ALREADY INSIDE THESE WALLS?

THEN THE CITY IS AS GOOD AS MINE ALREADY.

I AM AN ARMY UNTO MYSELF.

NO.

AARRGGHHH!

NO MORE!

THUNK!

WELL STRUCK, MY QUEEN...

YOU'VE WO--

WE'VE WON NOTHING YET.

SEE?

A STICK WITH A POINTY METAL END...

YOU MUST BE JOKING, CHILD.

LET ME SHOW YOU SOMETHING SHARPER.

PROTECT THE QUEEN!

PROTECT THE QUEEN--

AARRGGHHH!

GET BEHIND--

ARRGH!

REINFORCEMENTS WILL BE HERE SOON. WE SHOULD--

NO! ORDER THEM TO FALL BACK.

WE HAVE TO REGROUP WITHIN THE CITY. TELL THEM WE'LL RALLY AT THE GREAT HALL.

"TELL THEM WE HAVE LOST THE WALL."

THEY HAVE RETREATED, GENERAL...

WE KEPT ONE FOR QUESTIONING.

GOOD. GOOD.

WHERE DO THEY KEEP THE GEM, LITTLE ONE?

WHERE DOES THE PANTHER CALL HOME?

THU...THE QUEEN LIVES IN THE CAH... CASTLE.

NO. NOT THE FEMALE PANTHER...*THE MAN.* WHERE DOES HE LIVE?

IN THE CITY OF THE DEAD. NECROPOLIS... OUTSIDE THE CITY.

GOOD. SIGNAL THE SHIP...TELL THANOS OF OUR SUCCESS.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT I AM?

THAT LOOKS LIKE AN EX NIHILII... THAT DEFINITELY IS AN ALEPH.

I SPENT SOME TIME ON A LEARNING TREE ONCE...YOU'RE A BUILDER, AREN'T YOU?

YES, A CREATOR, AND THIS...AN ENGINEER.

I ASKED THE ALEPH TO OBSERVE THE INCURSION POINT--*EARTH*--BETWEEN OUR TWO UNIVERSES HOPING THAT SOME TYPE OF...EVOLVED PRODUCT OF THE SPECIES WOULD MANIFEST THERE...

AND LOOK, YOU DID NOT DISAPPOINT.

BUT TIME GROWS SHORT, SO I WILL NOT WA--

EXCUSE ME, BUILDER.

A PROBLEM.

WHAT IS THE--

HURK!

WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS.

AND WHAT OF THE TRIBUTE, MY LORD?

MY SON WAS NOT IN THE CITY BEFORE IT WAS DESTROYED. I WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH.

HAVE YOU LOCATED THE GEM?

WE HAVE, AS OF YET, FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF IT.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH...BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE'VE ALSO FOUND SOME RATHER INTERESTING THINGS HERE...

ITEMS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU.

SHOW ME.

THIS PLACE WAS SEALED UP TIGHT, UNDERSTANDABLE ONCE WE SAW WHAT WAS INSIDE.

LOOK, THANOS...

THEY ARE BUILDING WEAPONS.

ANTIMATTER PROJECTION SYSTEMS...A PERFECT WAY TO DESTROY THE WORLD.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL THING.

INTERESTING. SO THESE EARTHBOUND HEROES HAVE BEEN BUSY CREATING MACHINES OF DEATH... HOW DELIGHTFULLY UNEXPECTED.

IS THERE MORE?

YES. THERE'S A... PRISON.

HMMMM.

I'M BEGINNING TO LIKE THESE HUMANS.

SO, AS YOU CAN SEE, THANOS...THE SECRET BROTHERHOOD HAS CAPTIVES OF SOME INTEREST.

THIS ONE, TERRAX, WAS ONCE A HERALD OF GALACTUS.

HE IS KNOWN TO US.

BUT THIS OTHER ONE IS NOT.

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO WITH THEM, MY LORD? LET THE ANIMALS LOOSE FROM THE CAGES TO BLOODY THEIR MOUTHS ON THEIR CAPTORS?

YES... WOULD YOU CARE TO FREE US, TYRANT?

I THINK NOT.

A HIDDEN INHUMAN TRIBE. THE GEM IS LOST. LOCATED IN THE GREAT SOUTHERN CREVICE OF GREENLAND. ALL THESE MEN ARE LIARS AND KINGS. THE SON IS THERE. THE SON OF THANOS IS IN LOR.

AH, A MIND WEB, THE INFECTIOUS NETWORKED REMNANTS OF A WHISPERER--*ARTIFACTING* LEFTOVER FROM A *POSSESSION*.

I CAN TELL YOU THE EFFECTS WILL PASS. THERE ARE NO WHISPERERS IN THIS UNIVERSE, BUT IN THE PAST, WE HAVE STUDIED THEM IN YOURS.

EXCUSE ME... I HAVE TO ASK, WHERE ARE YOU FROM? YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS THING, SO DID YOUR SPECIES BEGIN IN OUR UNIVERSE?

WHERE ANYONE BEGINS IS INCONSEQUENTIAL, HUMAN...IT'S WHERE YOU END UP THAT MATTERS.

FOR US, IT WAS THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE.

WAS?

"YES. A VERY SHORT TIME AGO, WE MOVED FREELY FROM UNIVERSE TO UNIVERSE, ACCESSING EACH FROM THE OTHERSPACE THAT EXISTED BETWEEN THEM--THE SUPERFLOW.

"BUT ALL THAT HAS COLLAPSED. DESTROYED. THE SUPERFLOW... FRACTURED AND NO LONGER ABLE TO BE SAFELY NAVIGATED."

THE HARBINGER OF THE END OF EVERYTHING.

WHICH MY PEOPLE HAVE PLEDGED TO PREVENT. *WHICH IS WHY WE ARE SPEAKING...*

...AS RIGHT NOW, A GROUP OF...ENTITIES, SUCH AS YOURSELF, HAVE JUST DEFEATED THE BUILDERS EXISTING. IN YOUR UNIVERSE.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT YOU NO LONGER HAVE THE ACCESS TO WHAT YOU PROFESS TO POSSESS.

BRING IT IN.

HRRRNNNNNN.

HRRRNNNNNN.

HURTKIG. SUTTUOY E GOTHERUN ILLDAMERUN.

HRNNN.

THIS FAILED, DYING THING IS A BUILDER. USELESS AND DONE, BUT A CONTAINER NONETHELESS.

IT ESCAPED HERE FROM YOUR UNIVERSE.

FROM OURS? THAT'S SOME COINCIDENCE.

SWIMMING FOR THE NEAREST ISLAND WHEN LOST AT SEA IS NOT GOOD FORTUNE, HUMAN...IT IS PROXIMITY.

DO I NEED TO POINT OUT HOW CLOSE OUR TWO REALITIES CURRENTLY ARE?

SO...THE POINT OF THIS CONVERSATION, SHALL WE GET TO IT?

WHAT IS THIS?

"THIS VESSEL IS A WORLD KILLER-- ITS PURPOSE, ITS NAME.

"AND ITS CAUSE... IS VIRTUOUS.

"YOU MUST KNOW BY NOW THAT THE EARTH IS THE AXIS POINT FOR THE DEATH OF EVERYTHING...

"YOU MUST KNOW WHAT CONCLUSION MUST BE DRAWN FROM THIS FACT."

NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE. THE CASCADING EFFECT OF OTHER DYING UNIVERSES IS INCREASING.

THE RATE OF *ALL THINGS* DYING.

KILLING A SINGLE EARTH IS LIKE COMPARING A PEBBLE TO A PLANET. YOU'RE THINKING TOO SMALL.

OH, I AGREE. INCREMENTALISM IS A WASTE OF TIME, BUT ASK YOURSELF... WHAT IF WE KILLED *ALL* THE EARTHS?

ALL OF THEM.

"WE BELIEVE THAT WOULD SAVE EVERYTHING, AND IF NOT SAVE IT, THEN AT LEAST PROLONG IT, PRESERVING A MORE NATURAL END TO OUR EXISTENCE.

"HOWEVER, OUR WORLD KILLER IS TOO LARGE TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE INCURSION POINT, AND YOU HAVE DONE THE DISSERVICE OF DEFEATING THE BUILDERS OF YOUR LOCAL SPACE."

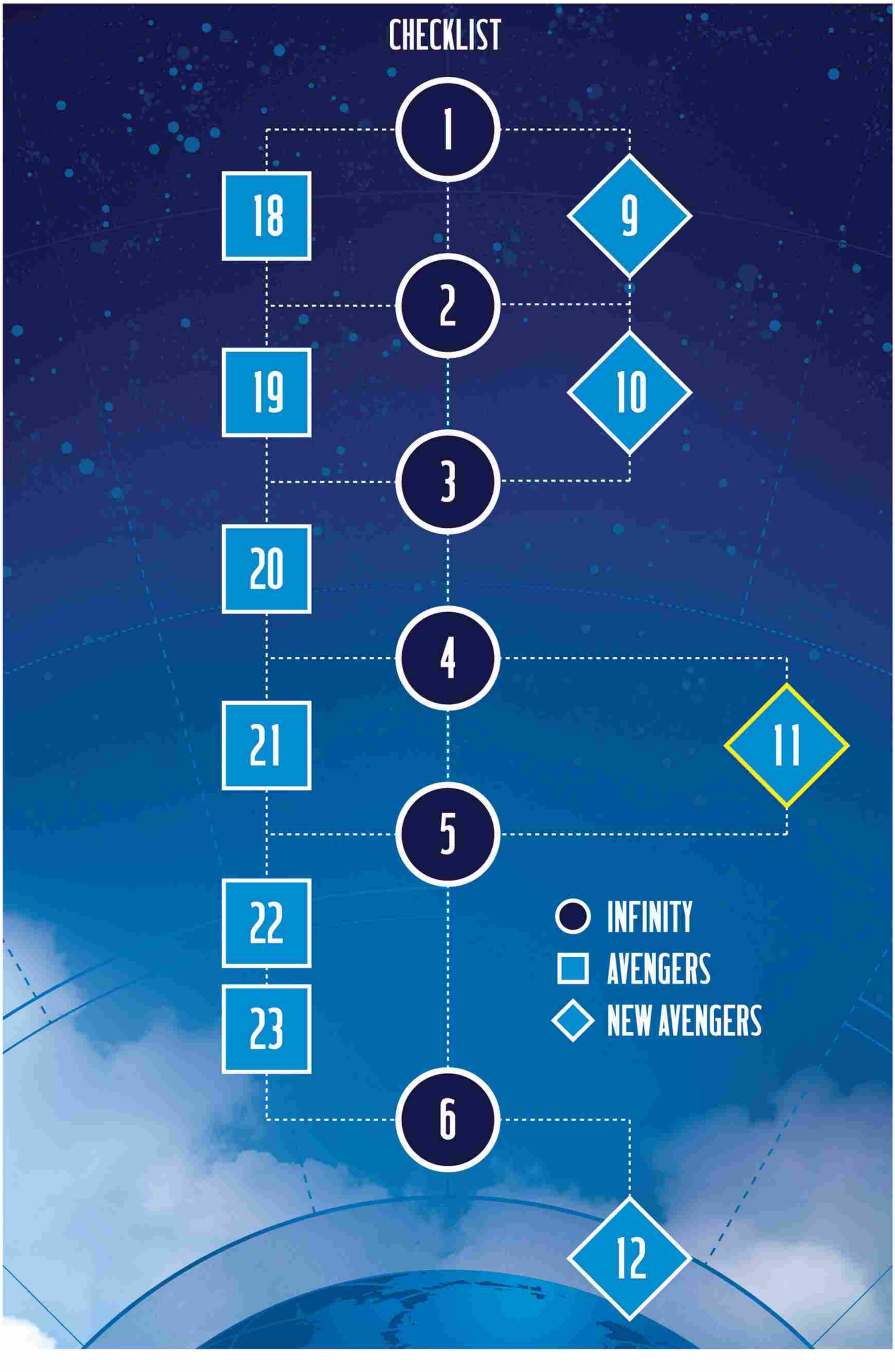
TELL ME, HUMAN...DO YOU POSSESS THE ABILITY TO DESTROY YOUR OWN WORLD?

YES. WE DO.

"THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?"

NEW AVENGERS

INFINITY


CHECKLIST
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INFINITY

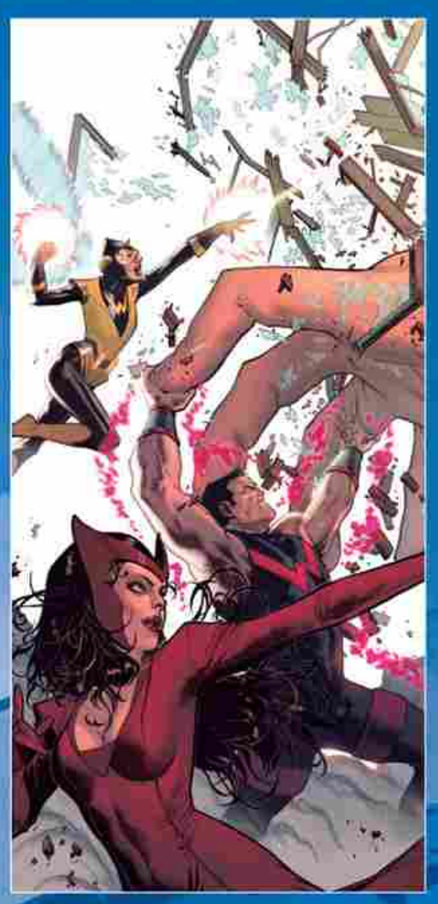
INFINITY #5

INFINITY #6

TIE-INS

INFINITY: HEIST #2

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #20



NOVA #9

SECRET AVENGERS #10

THE ASSEMBLY!

YOUR ONE-STOP NEWS SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AVENGERS!

It's finally here! October 4th sees the worldwide release of the very first AVENGERS original graphic novel **ENDLESS WARTIME**! Written by NY Times best-selling author Warren Ellis and illustrated by Mike McKone and Jason Keith, with stunning design by Rian Hughes, this is the perfect volume for Avengers fans old and new—a contemporary, forward-looking 120 page stand-alone epic that you will never forget! As X-MEN senior editor Nick Lowe remarked, it's "troubling and exciting, beautiful and so well designed. You should all be proud! Hope our inevitable X-MEN OGN is half as good."

We've been saving up for a day like this—saving up your comments, that is! So here's a wide sampling from the many missives about the new MARVEL NOW! incarnations of your favorite AVENGERS titles that we've received over the last couple of months:

Loved issue #11 of AVENGERS ASSEMBLE, it had all the heroics, humor, action, characterization, top characters and incredible art I could dream of in an Avengers title! But which pages had the AR?

–Chris Forster.

You didn't miss anything, Chris, that was our mistake, running the AR slug on the cover to a book without any AR. Oops!

I was on the fence about AVENGERS... until I saw Cannonball and Sunspot recruited! Cannonball has been my absolute favorite character for years and Sunspot is next in line. Please let them represent the X by kicking major butt as Avengers!

–Isaac Woodby

There's more of Sam and Bobby ahead, Isaac, not just in AVENGERS, but also—but why spoil that so far ahead of time?

With Red Skull taking Xavier's brain how can Magneto not finally go after and finish him? You showed us Wolverine's reaction, imagine how Magneto would react to a Nazi desecrating his old friend like that. Will we ever see another Red Skull/Magneto tussle?

–Richard Dodge

Sorry to "dodge" the question, Richard—but can you imagine a world in which Rick Remender doesn't get around to something like that eventually?

I love the Avengers! I'm also loving all the new series! I pick up AVENGERS, NEW AVENGERS, and AVENGERS ASSEMBLE every month, and I'm loving each series! I especially love AVENGERS #8, AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #9, and NEW AVENGERS #2.

–Denver Bridges

You can imagine how that makes us feel, Denver—Love!

Just wanted to let you all know what a great job you are doing on UNCANNY AVENGERS!!! I sincerely hope we see A LOT more of the Four Horsemen. Genocide/Holocaust has always had a special place in my heart. Totally kidding, that would be creepy.

–Joseph D. Urbick

Whew! You had us worried there for a moment, Joe!

Hickman coming to the Avengers books had me super excited for what he could bring and changes he could create. But now 9 issues in and 4 for NEW, I'm not loving the change so much anymore. While reading every issue I'm feeling really dumb. And confused. And ultimately not enjoying the books.

–Kenny Arena

Sorry to hear that you feel that way, Kenny! So sorry, in fact, that I'm not even going to make the obvious AVENGERS ARENA joke!

Intensifying. Uniting. Magnifying. Improving. Updating. These are just a few of the things that Jonathan Hickman is doing for the Marvel Universe at large here in the main AVENGERS title!

–Andrew J. Shaw

And glad to hear that you feel this way, Andrew! You're constantly one of our most regular critics!

Got this address from Stephen Wacker. Here is my son Parker Smith (yes, he was named after Peter Parker) dressed as Ant-Man.

–Benjamin Smith

Good looking kid you've got there, Ben! He wouldn't be interested in the lead role in an in-preparation Marvel motion picture by any chance, would he?

Any chance Remender will show what happened with the twins Uriel and Eimin after the Dark Angel Saga? Also, Daniel Acuña's fabulous art makes everything gorgeous and utter delicious to enjoy!

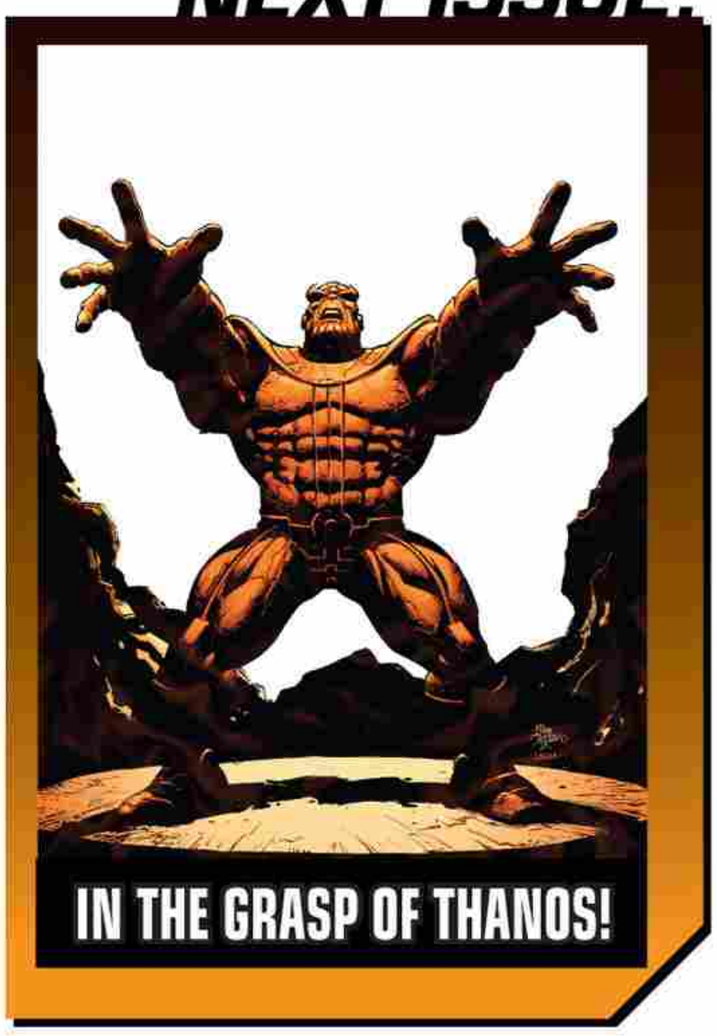
–Henrique Parreira

A better question, Henrique, would be will Rick ever stop showing us more of the Apocalypse Twins?

Out of all of the AVENGERS titles currently on the shelves, the one I'm most enjoying is Nick Spencer's SECRET AVENGERS. Already he's making me like the new Nick Fury and here I thought that would be a challenge (the Bond comparison from issue #1 was just perfect and funny at the same time). –Colin Herzog

And with that, we'll get back to our regularly scheduled programming! IN other words, it's checklist time!

NEXT ISSUE:



AVENGERS TITLES ON SALE

AVENGERS: ENDLESS WARTIME OGN
THE BIG ONE! 120 PAGES OF ACTION BY ELLIS AND MCKONE!

AVENGERS #21
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AWAKENING OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

AVENGERS #22
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE AVENGERS, CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO BATTLEFRONTS

AVENGERS A.I. #4
WITH THE VISION MISSING, DIMITRIOS UNVEILS HIS MASTER STROKE!

AVENGERS A.I. #5
WHAT IS THE SECRET PAST OF ALEXIS?

AVENGERS ARENA #16
BOTH WITHIN AND ABOVE MURDER WORLD, THE FINAL CONFLICT BEGINS!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #20
INFINITY TIE-IN! THE UNCANNY AVENGERS CONFRONT A COLOSSAL NEW THREAT!

INFINITY #4
THE GOD OF THUNDER FACES THE BUILDERS' ULTIMATUM!

INFINITY #5
THE WAR FOR EARTH BEGINS!

MIGHTY AVENGERS #2
INFINITY TIE-IN! LUKE CAGE'S AD HOC AVENGERS TEAM DEFIES THE BLACK ORDER!

NEW AVENGERS #11
INFINITY TIE-IN! IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE FOR EARTH: AN INCURSION!

SECRET AVENGERS #10
INFINITY TIE-IN! NICK FURY SEEKS OUT A NEW MEMBER TO REPEL THANOS' INVASION!

UNCANNY AVENGERS #13
SHATTERED AND DIVIDED, THE UNCANNY AVENGERS SEEM NO MATCH FOR THE APOCALYPSE TWINS AND THEIR HORSEMEN OF DEATH!

YOUNG AVENGERS #11
IS THIS THE END OF THE LINE FOR LOKI?

A + X #13
CAPTAIN AMERICA AND CYCLOPS BEGIN A 6-PART ADVENTURE, AND EMMA FROST AND THE BLACK WIDOW DO THEIR THING!

ALSO ON SALE!

MARVEL UNIVERSE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #1

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